

UP --

CPYRGHT SAIGON - INDOCHINA:

MOSCOW-TRAINED REBEL LEADER, HO CHI MINH, SAID TODAY HE IS "READY TO NEGOTIATE" WITH FRANCE TO END THE EIGHT-YEAR WAR.

IT WAS THE SECOND PEACE BID BY THE TOP INDOCHINE RED IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS; AND THE FOURTH SINCE 29 NOVEMBER. HO'S LATEST OFFER CAME IN A BROADCAST OSTENSIBLY AIMED AT COMMEMORATING THE DECEMBER 19, 1946, NATIONALIST UPRISING AGAINST THE FRENCH AT HANOI.

"IF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT DESIRES TO REACH AN ARMISTICE THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS; IF IT WISHES TO RESOLVE THE VIET NAM QUESTION THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS, THE VIETMINH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE ARE READY TO NEGOTIATE," HO CLAIMED.

MOSCOW RADIO BROADCASTED A SIMILARLY WORDED DISPATCH OF THE VIETMINH AGENCY LAST NIGHT. HO MADE HIS FIRST OVERTURES 29 NOVEMBER IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A SWEDISH NEWSPAPER. THE SECOND CAME IN A VIETMINH RADIO BROADCAST LAST THURSDAY.

1:41P 12/14/53